

House Republican Press Release

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Adinolfi Votes for Underage Drinking Bill



Measure Passes House, Heads to Senate

HARTFORD- The state House of Representatives last week passed legislation that prohibits individuals from allowing minors to possess alcohol on private property and prohibits minors from possessing alcohol on private property. State Representative Al Adinolfi (R-Cheshire), a co-sponsor of the bill hailed the passage today of the landmark legislation.

“The message we are sending is that it isn’t okay for minors to drink as long as they do it at home,” said Representative Adinolfi. “There has been a mixed message to teens on this issue, and this establishes that adults who facilitate underage drinking at their homes or on their property will face a serious run-in with the law. Surprisingly, underage drinking flourishes at private residences, and is more common than in more public areas. This bill addresses underage drinking right where it takes place most often.”

A number of Connecticut communities such as Woodbridge, Seymour, Cheshire, Orange, Glastonbury, Ellington and Newington have outlawed social hosting by local ordinance. This legislation would bring the whole state under the same law concerning social hosting.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), children who begin drinking alcohol before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol problems as adults than those who start after age 21. National research also shows that a higher percentage of youth aged 12-to-20 use alcohol than tobacco or illicit drugs, making underage drinking a leading public health problem in the United States. In response, the U.S. Surgeon General has declared a first-ever “Call to Action” on this issue.

The bill, *HB 5211, An Act Concerning Underage Drinking* will head to the state Senate for action there. The 2006 session of the Connecticut General Assembly adjourns on May 3rd.